

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 11207 201435Z

45

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /101 W

----- 065036

R 201145Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6241

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMXEMBASSY SANA 544

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG LE SY XF

SUBJ: SUMMIT TALK AT CENTER OF PRESS REPORTING ON LEBANON

1. COVERAGE OF SADAT-KHALID TALKS FOCUSED ON MOVEMENT TOWARDS ARAB SUMMIT. TWO REPORTEDLY AGREED THAT SUMMIT MUST BE HELD, MAIN PURPOSE OF WHICH WILL BE "MEETING OF SYRIANS AND PALESTINIANS." REPORTS RAISE POSSIBILITY THAT SUMMIT MIGHT BE HELD WITH LIMITED NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS.

2. OTHER REPORTS SPECULATE ON POSSIBILITY OF PRELIMINARY MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE AND VENUE OS SUMMIT. EGYPTIAN VIEW
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 11207 201435Z

SAID TO BE THAT HOLDING MEETING IN RIYADH WOULD AFFORD BEST

CHANCE OF SUCCESS, WHILE ACTING SYG AL-ASAAD SAID THAT NO COUNTRY HAD OFFERED TO BE HOST IN WHICH CASE SUMMIT WOULD BE HELD AT LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS IN CAIRO. AL-ASAAD NOTED THAT ONLY KUWAIT HAS FORMALLY AGREED ALTHOUGH LIST OF OTHERS THAT ALSO AGREE IN PRINCIPLE COMPRISES SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT, SUDAN, BAHRAIN, UAE, QATAR, TUNISIA, YAR AND PLO. ACCORDING TO ACTING SYG, INVITATIONS TO SUMMIT MEETING WILL BE DISPATCHED WITHIN 24 HOURS OF FORMAL AGREEMENT BY 11 MEMBERS. PAPERS FURTHER REPORT THAT AL SYG RIAD HAS SENT MESSAGES TO ARAB LEADERS URGING THEM TO RESPOND TO SAUDI-KUWAITI CALL FOR SUMMIT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. RIAD CALLED SUMMIT "PRESSING NEED."

3. COVERAGE OF MILITARY SITUATION RELATIVELY SCANTY. PAPERS REPORT SHELLING BY BOTH SIDES IN BEIRUT AND CLAIM PARTIAL AGREEMENT TO CEASE SHELLING OF RESIDENTIAL AREAS FAILED BECAUSE CHAMOUN AND LEFTISTS IGNORED FALANGIST/PALESTINIAN UNDERSTANDING. RIGHTISTS DESCRIBED AS IN PROCESS OF SETTING UP A SECOND TEL ZA'TAR WITH THEIR OFFENSIVE IN MOUNTAINS.

4. SYRIA WAS SPARED EDITORIAL ATTACK, BUT PAPERS REPORT DISAPPROVINGLY HUSSAIN CALL FOR ARAB SUPPORT OF SYRIAN ROLE.

5. COMMENT: PRESS TREATMENT OF MOVEMENT TOWARDS SUMMIT SUGGESTS THERE LITTLE OPTIMISM FOR USEFUL OUTCOME AND THAT PARTICIPATION INDEED LIKELY TO BE NEITHER COMPLETE NOR WHOLEHEARTED.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO11207
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760320-0240
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760835/aaaabefa.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUMMIT TALK AT CENTER OF PRESS REPORTING ON LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, EG, LE, SY, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006